

3955-62

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3 November 1962

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**

**SUBJECT: Proposed Increase in Cuban Reconnaissance Activities**

1. Since October 23 the U.S. has been entirely dependent on photographic intelligence obtained by low flying aircraft. Although this is useful for gaining information on the status of activity on known point targets, only high altitude reconnaissance is suitable for searching out new targets such as locations to which the offensive missiles might be redeployed. In addition, until today's F8U flight to Banes, there had been no successful reconnaissance at all over the eastern end of the island since the October 26 low level flight from Banes along the north coast. The deployment of SAMs and the shooting down of the U-2 in this area lead to the belief that additional offensive missile bases or other significant military activity may have been under way there on a slightly later time scale than for the western end of the island.

2. In the present situation our reconnaissance activity should be stepped up with sufficient flights to permit complete island coverage as rapidly as weather will allow. The Soviet s should be informed that we intend to do this and consider that attempts to shoot these planes down will be considered evidence that the Soviets do not intend to abide by the Khrushchev agreement to withdraw offensive weapons with inspection. The flights should be supported by maximum radar, SIGINT, and optical coverage with even freedom of communication so as to provide maximum safety for pilots and clear evidence of the cause should the aircraft be lost. Staggered timing of the flights could insure that only one aircraft was subject to hostile action at any given time.

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3. If it is considered too risky to fly a U-2 over the island without further assurance that there will be no hostile action against it, then the plan to use the [REDACTED] or at least some other less sensitive drone, should be reinstituted at once in order to determine more satisfactorily what kind of air defense reaction results.

O/DDR/HScoville:mh

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Approved For Release 2001/04/23 : CIA-RDP66R00638R000100100075-0

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Signed Herbert Scoville, Jr.

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Deputy Director  
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